



Final Report:
Gender and Climate Change Workshop
2 - 3 June 2008
Dakar, Senegal



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List of Acronyms

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CLACC	Capacity Strengthening of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for Adaptation to Climate Change
COP	Conference of Parties
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ENDA	Environmental Development Action in the Third World
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFW	Global Fund for Women
GHG	Greenhouse Gasses
GLOF	Glacier Lake Outburst Flood
HDI	Human Development Index
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LDC(s)	Least Developed Country(-ies)
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SECS	Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society
SEDU	Sustainable Economic Development Unit
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organization

I. Introduction

On June 2nd and 3rd, 2008, the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and with support from the Global Fund for Women (GFW), hosted a Gender and Climate Change Workshop in Dakar, Senegal. The Workshop brought together government and UN representatives, civil society and gender experts in order to:

- a) Contribute to country-specific needs assessments on gender and climate change;
- b) Identify policy options and outline advocacy strategies; and
- c) Determine action recommendations for governments and civil society to incorporate women's participation and a gender perspective into their national climate change adaptation plans.

Thirty participants from Senegal, Ghana, Nepal, Trinidad, Uganda, Sudan, the Netherlands, the UK, the USA, and representatives from international organizations gathered to consider one of the most urgent issues of our time, climate change. Specifically, the two-day workshop focused on the ways in which gender mainstreaming into climate change policies, solutions and adaptation activities might be advanced.

II. First Day: June 2nd

1. Opening Addresses

Welcome and introductions

WEDO Board member and Senegal resident Zo Randriamaro welcomed the group to the Gender and Climate Change Workshop and introduced WEDO Board Vice President Irene Dankelman (the Netherlands), as facilitator of the meeting. Irene provided a brief overview of the issues to be addressed and presented the objectives of the meeting, the most important of which being the opportunity to meet each other, share ideas and questions, and explore pathways for collaboration on gender and climate change adaptation. She noted that the speakers would share groundbreaking research and insights from vulnerable regions, with an emphasis on country-specific strategies for incorporating gender into climate change policies and actions. She also stressed the urgency and timeliness of the discussion, as the outcomes would contribute to activities and advocacy for the upcoming UNFCCC COPs in Poznan and Copenhagen, in December 2008 and 2009, respectively.



The participants introduced themselves, sharing how they work on climate change and/or gender mainstreaming into sustainable development policies and actions, and which organization(s) they represent. The full participant list is attached as *Annex II*.

Welcoming address, UNFPA

Aminata Toure, Chief of the Culture, Gender and Human Rights Branch, Technical Support Division, of the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA), shared a global perspective of the climate change crisis, focusing on its gender components, and sharing how UNFPA is beginning to work on these issues. Finally, climate change is getting the widespread attention it deserves and demands. If no action is taken, climate change will affect everyone on the planet. But, as population and environment have long been linked and recently reaffirmed in the MDGs, demographic factors are already and will continue to contribute to the vulnerability of specific populations. Because of its vast implications as an environmental and development issue, UNFPA is mainstreaming climate change into all of its development work. As well, UNFPA is committed to incorporating reproductive health advocacy into climate change strategies, as access to health care is inevitably a crucial part of mitigative and adaptive activities.

UNFPA works via four strategies: research and analysis of population issues, including urban planning; capacity-building, working with Ministries of the Environment in many countries, for example, to support the linkage between population and environmental issues; engaging in and promoting policy dialogues between civil society and government actors; and advocacy support, reaching out to civil society and governments to raise awareness and educate.

As part of the UN system, UNFPA is committed to mainstreaming gender into all of its work, acknowledging and responding to the reality that men and women have different roles and responsibilities. Because of the feminization of poverty, climate change is a gender issue, Ms. Toure emphasized, and childcare, workload and reduced/ limited mobility often adds to the vulnerability of women. Noting that women are not always the exclusive victims of climate change, Ms. Toure also said that during Hurricane Mitch in Central America, many more men died. The climate change discussion must address gendered divisions of labor and responsibilities, not just women's vulnerability.

It is not a lack of willingness, but a lack of knowledge that prevents many advocates and policy-makers from incorporating gender into climate change activities. UNFPA is dedicated to addressing this gap in information. Research is urgently needed, which would include gender disaggregated data and clear recommendations for policy-makers. Gender must be written into stakeholder analyses; and financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation must be examined from a gender perspective and applied to post-Kyoto Protocol solutions. UNFPA is committed to working with WEDO on building a toolkit that assembles these sorts of resources, making gender mainstreaming into climate change policies and activities a much more manageable task.

Welcoming address, WEDO

Cate Owren, WEDO's Sustainable Development Program Coordinator, welcomed and thanked the participants for being a part of this first-of-its-kind workshop to address gender and climate change at the national and global level. She expressed gratitude to UNFPA for partnering on the workshop, as well as to the Global Fund for Women (GFW) for providing additional travel support to several of the participants. Cate provided an overview of WEDO's climate change advocacy strategy and outlined WEDO's pilot project on advancing gender mainstreaming into climate change policies and actions in developing countries.

Despite numerous global mandates for gender equality and widespread acknowledgment that gender equality and equity is in fact a prerequisite for sustainable development, gender has been entirely left out of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol (KP). WEDO is committed to advocating for gender mainstreaming into the policy that replaces the KP and is actively engaged in various networks and partnerships working toward that end. In early 2007, WEDO made climate change a cross-cutting issue throughout its programmatic work, noting that climate change is and will continue to be a far-reaching development issue. Moreover, climate change is a threat to human security and, commissioned by the Greek Chairmanship (2007-2008) of the Human Security Network, WEDO just completed a comprehensive study, including three country-specific case studies, entitled *Gender, Climate Change and Human Security*.

With more than 15 years of advocacy expertise, WEDO is in a unique position to connect the "local" to the "global", and WEDO works with partners at all levels to advocate for a rights-based vulnerability approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation across its three programmatic areas. Although the gender and climate change work is at the heart of WEDO's Sustainable Development Program, the Economic and Social Justice Program and Gender and Governance Programs are also engaged in critical gender and climate change projects. These include studies on financing for climate change, publishing factsheets on "false solutions" such as biofuels and examining carbon markets, promoting corporate accountability on the *MisFortune 500* web resource, engaging women leaders on the issues of climate change via the *50/50 Network*, and advocating for a larger, more powerful presence of elected women involved in climate change policy negotiations. WEDO also launched a U.S.-focused campaign, *Women Demand U.S. Action on Climate Change*, to unite women's organizations with environmental and other social justice organizations to fight for urgent multilateral action from the U.S. government and raise awareness among women leaders and activists.

Although WEDO continues to advocate at the UN and at the global level, Ms. Owren said, the advocacy on climate change shifted focus to the national level, where WEDO recognized the opportunity to directly influence policy formulation. The Gender and Climate Change Workshop in Dakar marks the launch of WEDO's national advocacy pilot project, partnering with women's organizations and environmental and development organizations to mainstream gender into national climate change

policies in four developing countries. It was noted that, in choosing pilot project countries, three essential variables were considered: the presence of strong partners, the likelihood to influence policies and connections to the government, and vulnerability of the region and population. With those criteria as the starting point, WEDO identified Senegal, Ghana, Trinidad-and-Tobago and Nepal as its pilot countries, while anticipating that a second phase of the project could be implemented with partners in countries such as Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Suriname, Costa Rica, Jamaica and others. This workshop serves as the first opportunity for the national partners to convene and present groundbreaking country assessments on gender and climate change.

WEDO's follow-up to the Workshop will include various strategies and outputs. This report summarizes the research presented at the Workshop and will be widely disseminated, as well as posted on the WEDO website (www.wedo.org). WEDO will also collaborate with UNFPA and country partners to produce a toolkit on gender and climate change, which will incorporate essential resources for policy-makers and advocates. WEDO will publish the country assessments on its website and produce a series of factsheets on the assessments in order to reach a wider audience. At the country level, WEDO will continue to work with partners on identifying opportunities to affect policy-making, raise awareness and advocate for widespread gender mainstreaming into development and environmental policies.

Questions, Answers and Comments

Several issues were raised, including:

- To *not* include a gender perspective means that the goals of development will not be met; therefore, messages must demonstrate why it won't work and how it *does* work if we include gender in those goals
- More women experts and leaders (as well as gender-sensitive men) are clearly needed to demonstrate what is wrong with the current policy formulations
- National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), while they do incorporate gender as a "guiding principle" in their drafting, largely present women as victims; none of the NAPAs so far address women as key actors and experts, and few target women for activity implementation
- Clarification on the term "gender"; the discussion is aimed to address the vulnerability and expertise of women but must also focus on the gender-sensitive language necessary to reflect gendered divisions of labor and responsibilities, i.e. must also incorporate men's vulnerabilities and expertise
- Recommendations and actions must be clearly identified and simplified; technical knowledge is necessary, but organizations must help make the link between development, human security, gender and climate change in order to effectively inform policy
- A common platform is needed; reflecting the current food and fuel crisis, as well as long term struggles over property rights and other critical development and gender issues, a common platform must address a rights-based, vulnerability-based security approach to advocate for gender in climate policies

- The topic is urgent and everyone will be affected; nothing must be swept under the rug because it feels too sensitive; the time is now.

2. Country Assessments

WEDO's primary national partners from Ghana, Senegal, Nepal and Trinidad presented analyses of their countries, addressing three overall points: the climatic trends in the country and the impacts already being felt; the situation for women in the country and the nature of gender mainstreaming into policies; and the needs, strategies, obstacles and issues for mainstreaming gender into climate change policies and activities.

Ghana

Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin of ABANTU for Development (Regional Office for West Africa) in Ghana presented the first of four country assessments on gender and climate change. Dr. Mensah-Kutin credited the National Focal Point in Ghana and Ghana's Atomic Energy Commission, especially Patience Damptey, for making the assessment possible¹. She began by explaining that we should see advocacy around climate change as a new and unique opportunity to bring all stakeholders' voices to the table, including women's. Writing climate change policies could be a chance to integrate gender into development policies.

Dr. Mensah-Kutin provided an overview of how climate change is affecting Ghana, across sectors. From agriculture, to health, to economic development, climate change will have (and is already having) an impact on the country. Gendered divisions of labor in the fisheries sector (where men catch fish but women process, buy and sell it) is an example of how climate change policies need to be gender-responsive. Property rights, access to fertile soil and land security are also gendered issues which will be exacerbated by climate change. Impacts on women's and children's health are of particular concern because of droughts and floods.

Although Ghana was one of the first countries to implement affirmative actions, acknowledging the value of women elected leaders in the 1960s, women's rights and empowerment seem to have eroded in recent decades. Formal wage employment includes 23% of Ghanaian men, but only 6% of women; maternal and infant mortality rates are still high; and the absence of social provisioning policies lead to increased poverty in times of economic growth (i.e. the rich get richer while the poor continue to get poorer.) A mere 0.01% of Ghana's budget is designated for gender work; environmental policies remain "gender neutral".

¹ Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin's study, as well as ENDA's assessment of Senegal, was also made possible by ELIAMEP and the Greek Chairmanship of the Human Security Network for 2007-2008. ELIAMEP commissioned WEDO to author the study, *Gender, Climate Change and Human Security*, available now on WEDO's website. Case studies of Ghana, Senegal and Bangladesh (ActionAid-Bangladesh) were major inputs to this paper. The lead author was Irene Dankelman.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has projected temperature rises in all climatic zones. However, the EPA anticipates that temperature rise will not affect millet, one of Ghana's local staple crops. Adaptation policies, then, should specifically focus on local expertise and incorporate strategies that highlight context-specific solutions. Ghanaians are very resilient because of their closeness to the environment, to their communities and households; therefore, women have come up with coping strategies in times of environmental instabilities.

Although “sustainable” technologies and climate change science is highly technical and not at all geared towards including women², women in the fisheries sector, for example, in the Volta Region, noticed the changes in shorelines and quantity of fish and adapted their livelihoods to accommodate. They noticed, as well, that the changes were not natural, but man-made from activities such as illegal net use and over-fishing. Women diversified their activities, engaged in micro-credit opportunities and strengthened informal savings mechanisms for insurance. Climate change is male-dominated in the government sphere, but women in the communities are dealing with it.

Women's contribution to climate change, Dr. Mensah-Kutin noted, or contribution to GHG levels, has not been studied specifically, although attention to women farmers and unsustainable practices has been paid in part. More critical is a focus on privatization and corporate agricultural and mining practices that are contributing to displaced populations, water scarcity and deforestation³.

Dr. Mensah-Kutin called for representation at the highest level to advance gender mainstreaming into climate change policies. She called for women's organizations to become involved in climate change and become leaders. Power dynamics must be addressed, as climate change will continue to make the poorest the most vulnerable. Research must be urgently conducted to not only explore how women can become more involved on climate change issues, but also to build confidence in women and women's organizations that they can and are leaders on the environment.

Questions and Answers

During the question and answer segment the following points were raised:

- Women will be less likely to invest in land, increasing productivity and sustainability, if they do not own it; therefore, land rights will continue to be one of the most important issues in addressing climate change from a gender perspective.
- Every year, the poor all over Africa lose land for two major reasons: development and privatization; governments need to acknowledge the pros and

² Dr. Mensah-Kutin shared a story about institutional kitchens that had been taught to cook more “sustainably” with LPG by an NGO; when the NGO moved on, however, the women cooks reverted to using cookstoves fueled by wood, as they did not have the resources to continue using the up-scaled stoves. Capacity building for women was not incorporated into the project.

³ This point was reiterated and elaborated upon during the Q&A by additional participants.

cons of privatization, especially in light of climate change, and privatizers need to be directly engaged.

- Ghana's national budget (itself about 70% donor-funded) allots nothing for climate change; the Committee on Climate Change is separately funded by donors.

Senegal

The second country assessment, Senegal, was authored and presented by Yacine Diagne Gueye of Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), based in Dakar. Climate change, she said, is a reality, and Senegalese communities are living with it, despite the gaps in information or implementation of official adaptation activities. It is also clearly a gendered issue, as women and men do have differentiated roles, responsibilities and livelihoods.

With women making up 70% of the agricultural sector and 90% of the fisheries sector (largely in the processing of the fish), the climatic impacts on these two sectors will be grave for women. Deforestation, diminishing water resources and degradation of soil fertility suggests that climate change is deeply impacting Senegal already, and women tend to “sacrifice themselves” in order to care for their families, feeding themselves last or trying to circumvent obstacles in other ways. Women own about 13% of land in Senegal, and the legal framework limits women's access to land. Most policies are gender-blind, but women are finding unique ways to “adapt” to climate change.

Women find ways to meet the needs of their families, finding water and food even in times of scarcity, but they are exerting more energy, more time, and venturing into dangerous areas to do so. Ms. Diagne Gueye noted that women are particularly vulnerable in conflict or post-conflict situations; cases of women losing limbs while searching for food or water in land mine areas are unfortunately occurring. Women cook with cow dung when wood fuel is scarce, or dig for roots when trees have all been cut down. They cook with salt water when fresh water becomes limited, impacting the health of their families.



Women's organizations have also been involved in “adaptation” - even mitigation - efforts, although these activities are commonly known by other names: the Women of Popenguine have engaged in reforestation projects, noticing that a lack in firewood put their livelihoods in jeopardy. ENDA supported women building small anti-erosion dams to help with water supply. Women's groups have also made improvements to cookstoves.

These important lessons learned, Ms. Diagne Gueye noted, must inform national policy-making, carefully incorporating capacity-building and support to rural women. Women's efforts to adapt to changing climatic circumstances have not been

incorporated into policies, and information has not reached women, particularly in rural communities. Nevertheless, despite the gap in official information, women see the changes to their climate and are working hard to cope.

In conclusion, Ms. Diagne Gueye said that gender mainstreaming into climate change policies must not evolve in isolation from PRSPs or activities designed to meet the MDGs. Poverty alleviation strategies, sustainable development policies and climate change adaptation and mitigation must all contribute to and reflect each other, and each must incorporate women's vulnerability and experiences.

Questions and Answers

The following points were raised:

- Social and cultural expectations and norms must be taken into consideration, and political issues, ethnic or racial tensions and migration patterns must also be addressed in policy-formation.
- Literacy programs for women might be an opportune forum through which to educate women, particularly rural women, on climate change; the literacy rate for Senegalese women still remains low and hinders women's access to information.
- Since PRSPs have not necessarily worked for West Africa, perhaps climate change policy-making presents a new opportunity to re-work the options.
- Women are very capable of reconciling situations that are not working out; women have long demonstrated that they are resilient and creative problem-solvers, and their voices at the community level must be supported.

Nepal

The Nepal country assessment was prepared and presented by Brigitte Leduc⁴ of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Nepal is a landlocked, mountainous country in the Himalayan region - largely ignored in official climate change negotiations and documentation. Climatic vulnerabilities are somewhat different from coastal West Africa's. The issues of women's vulnerability to climate change, however, are strikingly similar.

The remoteness of many mountain communities and social status and expectations are two important issues to be considered in climate change policy-making. Ms. Leduc began by sharing two stories reflecting these issues, one from the extremely remote Dandaphaya village in the Humla region, and one which revealed the remoteness resultant of the extreme poverty and isolation of the Untouchable caste.

The Dandaphaya village in the northern mountains is dependent upon agriculture and trading forest products for their livelihood, and men migrate to search for work when resources are scarce. Climate change has already affected this region in the last six years, according to the village women, drying the lands with drought, extending the

⁴ Arun Shrestha and Basundhara Bhattarai were co-authors of this study.

famine period, making food security a pressing issue. Women's workload has increased enormously as they struggle to care for their families and take up the activities of their husbands while the men are away.

In the southern part of Nepal, an area used to flooding, women have become adept at preparing for and recovering from floods. Women hold local knowledge to cope with early warning signs. For the "untouchable" Dalit caste, however, access to information and insurances are failing. For one woman interviewed, a widow, every flood means losing a bit more of her house, but she has no access to credit, or security by borrowing from neighbors, because of her social status. Being poor, being a woman and being Dalit means that she is at the extreme end on the spectrum of vulnerability.

Of 27 million people in Nepal, 86% live rurally, 80% are in the agricultural sector, 68% live on less than \$2/day and 90% live on less than \$3/day. On the day of the presentation (June 2, 2008), Ms. Leduc noted, Nepal was a Republic just five days old, and women are requesting to be a part of the process of building the new government. While the large majority is still illiterate, Nepalese women have built strong movements and hold great expertise on managing their communities and lands. Laws, institutions, religion, mentalities and traditions remain barriers to gender equality, but women's knowledge is desperately needed for the implementation of Nepal's many policies and plans.

Nepal is a country that has very good policies in every sector but experiences a major gap in policy implementation. Part of the problem is the neglect to examine social factors; the first communication to the UNFCCC, for example, was 174 pages but had no social analysis of the issue. The technical capacities for dealing with climate change are limited, but the social networks for implementation seem to be largely untapped. Although gender mainstreaming in environment is a new issue for Nepal, a shift in climate change focus toward recognizing and analyzing the human impacts will surely - and must - include women and women's expertise.

Considered the "third pole", the melting glaciers of the Himalayan region are of grave concern, producing glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs, or "mountain tsunamis",) displacing populations and threatening ecosystem and human security. Temperatures are rising in the mountainous regions faster than anywhere else. Climate change is an urgent issue for Nepal, and women must become a part of the solutions.

Questions and Answers

Points raised included the following:

- We cannot mobilize the word "gender" without having solid empirical evidence to back it up, especially when talking about utilizing gender and women's expertise in helping to implement climate change policies.



- The methodology should be rigorous and must address the intersecting factors contributing to climate change vulnerability; the “cake cannot be cut in pieces too small” but must address widespread social issues.
- Since this is not just a social sciences issues, Ministries of Women, for example, should be trained in the basic natural science of climate change, as well as women’s organizations at the grassroots level; mitigation should also be taught to empower women around what *causes* climate change.
- The role of media outreach, especially radio in rural, remote areas, will be particularly valuable for advocacy efforts in Nepal.

Trinidad-and-Tobago

Shifting geographic focus to the Caribbean and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the final country assessment was prepared and presented by Dr. Marlene Attzs of the Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU) of the University of the West Indies. Dr. Attzs suggested that Trinidad provided a real opportunity to “get things right”.

Although Trinidad is technically a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), it has experienced significant economic growth as a petroleum country. The population is quite small (1.3 million) with high human development (per the HDI), and high gender equality. The numbers of women in government are expected to exceed the world’s leading country, Rwanda, on equality, with women comprising nearly 80% of Parliament. But men are still earning more than twice what women do; men earn an average of US\$20,000 a year, while women earn just \$9,000. More than half of people living with HIV/AIDS in Trinidad, a widespread concern, are women. AIDS as a threat to human security is a cross-cutting issue as climate change is, increasing vulnerability to already at risk populations.

Trinidad is not technically in the Hurricane Belt through the Caribbean, but (as Grenada has devastatingly experienced recently) climate patterns are shifting. Flooding and land reform are interconnected and urgent issues. The tourism sector, although not a major contributor to the GDP, is dominated by female workers, so any impacts from climate instabilities will directly impact women. As small island states, as well, all Caribbean countries’ vulnerabilities impact each other; if a hurricane impacts a neighboring island, for example, the tourism and every other sector will be impacted in Trinidad.

Policies, therefore, need to be approached and integrated holistically. Dr. Attzs expressed that Trinidad must shift from reactive to proactive in response to growing climate change threats, so policy must prioritize adaptation now. Climate change policies must be located in the context of all current disaster risk reduction and management policies (DRR/ DRM) and must work cross-sectorally and from multiple Ministries.

Another challenge to gender mainstreaming in climate change policies will be the need to educate the usually male decision-makers about the gendered differences in

impacts, vulnerabilities and expertise related to climate change. A gap in technical data means that research and analysis of the gender dimensions of the region are needed to address climate change.

Many opportunities exist, however, to support Trinidad as a “best case” example. Dr. Attzs was involved in authoring the first communication to the UNFCCC and is currently contributing to the second; she is directly engaged with Ministers and seeking to engage multiple perspectives. Networks of NGOs and CBOs are also newly approaching the issue, and awareness-raising at the local level, although needing support, has begun on a small scale. The biggest obstacles may be implementing action from policies, and uniting policies from different sectors or Ministries, but the framework in Trinidad may be in place. Women can take a leading role in filling in the gaps. An emphasis on a bottom-up strategy is needed.

Questions and Answers

Points raised included the following:

- Again, language must be meticulously chosen; climate change and gender mainstreaming are both issues riddled with jargon and may seem “esoteric” to many audiences.
- Discussions at the household level on “cleaner, greener” technologies are important, the results of which must inform wider policies; a bottom-up approach must be prioritized in climate change adaptation to learn from what communities are already doing and what is working for them.
- “Women in government positions” does not necessarily translate into gender equality or equity in policy-making; women leaders and decision-makers must be directly engaged and supported.

The first day of the workshop ended with concluding notes from the facilitator, Irene Dankelman, and an overview of the agenda for the next day.

During the evening, participants gathered to watch Oxfam’s new short film, Sisters on the Planet, telling the stories of four women impacted by and engaged in climate change. Becks Gowland of Oxfam GB presented the film, and a short discussion followed. WEDO will make Sisters on the Planet available; for more information, please visit [Oxfam’s website](http://www.oxfam.org.uk)⁵.



⁵ http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/climate_change/sisters/index.html

III. Second Day: June 3rd

1. Short Presentations

Welcome Back and Reflections on Previous Day

WEDO Board member Ayesha Imam welcomed the group back to the meeting, also welcoming a few newcomers, and turned the floor over to Irene Dankelman for reflections and summaries of Day One.

Ms. Dankelman outlined the major points made on the first day:

- Climate change is already impacting livelihoods and security.
- Climate change is context-specific, and is a part of and strengthens intersections and interactions of factors.
- Climate change is not gender neutral: gendered divisions of labor, access to and control over resources, land and property rights, education, mobility and decision-making power are all aspects of gender and climate change.
- Policies, institutions and financing must all be gender-sensitive in order to effectively implement sustainable strategies and actions for climate change adaptation as well as mitigation.

The needs coming out of the first day included:

- A link from local to global.
- A holistic approach.
- Development critiques and analysis of how development strategies complement or take away from climate change solutions/ strategies (especially privatization).
- Regional collaboration.
- Clear, meticulous language.

Open challenges included:

- Developing a methodology for climate change advocacy rigorous enough to include gender, class, ethnicity and other social development issues.
- Challenging the paradigm that development means ever-increasing growth; economic growth does not always mean development.

The morning session was then devoted to presentations from two experts on gender and climate change.

Presentation: “Different Dimensions of Adaptation to Climate Change and Gender Concerns”

Dr. Sumaya Zakiideen, from the Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society (SECS) and the CLACC Network (Capacity Strengthening of Least Developed Countries [LDCs] for Adaptation to Climate Change), began by saying that adaptation is more than a

destination; it is a journey, dynamic and continuous, and nonlinear. In many countries, populations are *coping* with climate change, but they are not adapting.

Significant obstacles to adaptation exist for poor communities, and especially for women: lack of credit, limited access to water, limited or restricted access to property rights, and limited access to marketplaces, especially in times of flood or other climatic episodes. Institutionally, there is a lack of funding largely because there is a lack of coherence and understanding of the interconnectedness of the issues. The UNFCCC is essentially a top-down structure that must consider much more carefully and explicitly the impacts upon and strategies already used by the most vulnerable communities. Adaptation must be considered a priority along with mitigation, and funding, still not guaranteed, must be ensured. The UNFCCC has required each LDC to submit a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), essentially outlining the most critical needs and threats it faces in light of climate change, and the programmes must now be prioritized and funded.

There are numerous entry points for gender. Mapping vulnerability reveals that climate change impacts upon livelihoods because of various factors. Analyzing varied vulnerabilities leads to a very clear outline of gender roles, responsibilities and expectations. Lessons from Sudan, said Dr. Zakieldeem, indicate that the involvement of women is influential in increasing resilience to climate variability, particularly when considering decision-making, training, market access and finance strategies, availability of and access to resources, and improvement of overall living standards and reduction of poverty.

The ways forward include identifying a clear and unified agenda, clear entry points within existing frameworks, institutions and networks and incorporating from best practices and lessons learned.

Questions and Answers

Raised points included the following:

- Men must be actively and equitably included in this process; men and women must both be sensitized and empowered to make decisions about community adaptation.
- The best strategy might be decentralization, rather than relying too heavily upon existing frameworks like the UNFCCC's; transferring power to the community, and grassroots level from the government might more likely increase women's access to land, training and capacity-building.
- Continuing to focus at the national level rather than the international level allows for more lessons learned and establishment of best case scenarios via thorough case studies.



- Adaptation measures must be qualified; the best strategies and the most sustainable methods must be prioritized.

Presentation: “Financing Gender Equality in Climate Change”

Rachel Nampinga, from ECOWATCH Africa and the African Gender and Climate Change Network, based in Uganda, presented an overview of how funding for climate change is currently structured (GEF/ SCCF/ LDC Fund/ Adaptation Fund) and how gender might be mainstreamed into these mechanisms. Currently, gender is a missing link. Needs and vulnerabilities must be focused upon in order to understand and allocate appropriate funding.

To begin with, non-negotiable criteria must be identified. Gender equity and equality means that more women need to be involved in all aspects and phases of funding: designing and implementing programs, evaluating proposals and reporting back. Gender sensitive indicators must clearly identify women’s perceptions and concerns, vulnerabilities, and experienced or projected impacts. Most funding programs are short-term and market-driven; analyzing the gendered impacts of climate change reinforces that long-term strategies to support women must be in place.

Women and gender advocates need support to research, compile and share traditional and contemporary knowledge; initiate sustainable local projects; develop innovative tools and systems; network; and protect and conserve environmental resources. Mandatory gender audits of funding mechanisms should be in place to monitor how women are being supported by these efforts, and gender budgeting should be included in all funds. Women and gender experts should be involved in developing and implementing funding criteria.

There is no climate justice without gender justice; the polluter pays principle should be enacted as the equitable and just response to power structures, market-driven mitigation standards, and issues of class and gender.

Questions and Answers

Points raised included the following:

- If the vast majority of funding is now via the GEF, then advocacy toward gender-sensitizing the GEF should be priority.
- National coalitions should be put to use in generating and compiling critical data to support gendering finance mechanisms; these networks need to “make a lot of noise”.
- Funds may exist, but how they benefit women or have gendered impacts should be addressed at the national and local level; on the other hand, some states have not even begun to consider climate change, so global standards for funding should be set for related policies/programs.
- Power issues will continue to be at the heart of the issue, so gender mainstreaming has to face the task of addressing who is depleting the natural resources of the developing world and how.

- All mitigation efforts should result in a percentage toward adaptation funding, as well as gender budgeting.
- The presence of an organization like WEDO to act as a liaison between grassroots efforts at the local, national or regional level to the global level is essential to generate and gather research, disseminate best practices and lessons learned and offer guidance and “how to” on gender mainstreaming

2. Working Groups

Participants divided into five small working groups to have a discussion based on the following questions: what are the next steps (immediate, i.e. up to the UNFCCC COP-14, Poznan, December 2008; mid-term, up to the COP-15, Copenhagen, December 2009; and longer term, past 2009, building sustainable policies and projects); who does what; and what support is needed? Each group reported back on their discussions and fielded questions.

Senegal Group

The report-back, questions and comments included the following points:

- Affirmative actions for including gender in climate change policies and activities are necessary.
- Significant barriers, such as women’s access to land and resources, women’s reproductive role, women’s access to information and sensitization regarding climate change, must be addressed in order to do this.
- Speaking on behalf of all women, or on behalf of particularly vulnerable populations, is problematic; women’s direct participation and capacity-building must be fostered.
- Activities must be designed to specifically include and address women’s roles, but they must also educate women about environmental destruction. For example, women tend to collect shells as an income-generating activity, which is encouraged by micro-credit schemes geared toward women; however, the collection of shells erodes the shoreline, actually contributing to environmental instability. So women must be included, but educated as well about climate change and sustainable practices.
- Senegal provides an example of how many factors contribute to a complicated argument for a rights-based or vulnerability approach to advocacy; ethnic tensions present another obstacle, in addition to gender inequalities.



- The national committee on climate change (COMNAC) will take a lead role on advocating for urgent gender mainstreaming into climate change policies, particularly the NAPA; although men also need to be equitably included, COMNAC is coordinated by a woman and managed at all levels by women and can therefore demonstrate that the issue is being woman-/women-led.
- Capacity-building is essential for women and women’s groups, and gender equity and equality must be advocated for across sectors and throughout the UN system.

Ghana Group

The report-back, questions and comments included the following points:

- Sharing information and resources across continents and across sectors is of obvious urgent importance
- Capacity-building is also essential for women and women’s groups; affecting policy is not the only priority—we must pay attention to what is happening on the ground and let that inform us.
- Gender-mainstreaming must be led by women’s networks and via the Ministry of Education; gender and diversity should be addressed in schools to build capacity and understanding at early ages for both girls and boys.
- Immediate steps include:
 - Mapping of actors working on gender and climate change in Ghana and gathering of assessments, studies and analyses;
 - Sensitization and awareness-raising among multiple communities and target audiences; consultative meetings with all;
 - ABANTU and WEDO will take the lead in gathering experts and facilitators and will work to create simple, clear language for advocacy;
 - Exploring options for funding.
- Next steps include:
 - Developing a model for gender-sensitive climate change documents by ABANTU and its networks at the local, national, regional and international levels, engaging women artists, the media and other unique target groups.
- Longer-term steps include:
 - Using model documents, designing and implementing national, regional and international advocacy activities;
 - Conducting sensitizations and trainings;
 - ABANTU and its network (including WEDO) working to ensure compliance in implementation of conventions and monitoring activities.



Nepal Group

The report-back, questions and comments included the following points:

- Women’s role in food security is extremely important to highlight and this really has not been so far; especially women need to be educated about the threat of climate change to food security.
- The government and agencies working on climate change in Nepal really do not know what communities are doing to cope with a changing environment; research must be prioritized, especially that which is gender-sensitive and disaggregated.
- Steps must be taken toward awareness-raising before gender is “mainstreamed” into climate policies; advocacy language must be very clear.
- An immediate strategy, therefore, must be to educate groups of stakeholders, and then the next step will involve advocating to the government; by Copenhagen (2009), Nepal should have take a gender-sensitive climate change approach.
- Actions among networks (and especially with ICIMOD, Sancharika Samuha and WEDO) must include:
 - Build a network with other major international organizations working on climate change issues in Nepal - such as ActionAid, IUCN, WWF, and Oxfam - to advocate for integrating a gender perspective in national programs and strategies for addressing climate change issues;
 - Document gendered impacts of climate change and populations’ adaptation strategies so far, directed toward the government, (especially the Ministries of Women, Environment, Agriculture, Forestry, etc. to demonstrate linkages);
 - Analyze Nepal’s NAPA and create recommendations, tools, guidelines, etc.
 - Conduct two workshops: one with the media representatives to build their understanding and develop communications strategies, and one with the Ministry of Women, women leaders and women’s NGOs to educate and network;
 - Focus longer-term on building sustainable capacity for men’s and women’s resilience;
 - Explore funding options.



Trinidad-and-Tobago Group

The report-back, questions and comments included the following points:

- Trinidad has, at this time, a lower level of understanding about climate change as a cross-sectoral (and development) issue than some other countries, and because of the limited information accessible now, awareness-raising efforts cannot exclusively focus on gender or women’s vulnerability.

- Government, NGOs and other civil society communities have very different understandings of “climate change”; a cross-sectoral discussion must occur, and the focus should be on a national campaign of action.
- Education and advocacy must be embraced as the primary vehicles for change; key stakeholders in this must be the national government, local governments, NGOs and village-based groups.
- Awareness-raising must be prioritized, with widespread communications strategies and messages, and targeted informational sessions at the village, regional and national levels, as well as to the NGO community.
- Next summer, the second national communication to the UNFCCC will be completed, and the goal by then must be for the national government to acknowledge the multiple vulnerabilities of various communities, particularly of women, and formulate a comprehensive strategy.
- A vulnerability assessment must be conducted, examining multiple factors, and reporting back to the government and the global arena.
- Networks and women’s groups such as CAFRA must take the lead in mobilizing their constituencies around this issue; WEDO should act as a global link to facilitate information sharing and advocacy strategies.
- Gender mainstreaming may come secondarily; overall, the approach must begin with sensitization about the issue of climate change.
- One of the biggest obstacles is funding and identifying climate change (and gender mainstreaming into climate change work) as urgent to fund; again, language must be clear, comprehensive and strategic.



“Local-to-Global” Group

The report-back, questions and comments included the following points:

- The case studies presented at this workshop have provided a groundbreaking first step in understanding the vulnerabilities and abilities to cope by various communities, especially women; from here, the studies must be expanded upon and published and must serve as a template for other studies.
- A gender-sensitive analysis of the NAPAs must be prepared and must be published and widely disseminated.
- Advocacy must focus at the national level, acknowledging context-specific vulnerabilities and strengths; lessons must then inform global advocacy.
- Certain issues which can be identified as cross-cutting throughout regions/ countries should then be prioritized at COP-14 (Dec. 2008) and COP-15 (Dec. 2009); food and fuel security might be examples.
- WEDO should take the lead and serve as a liaison between national partners to identify priorities and commonalities, as well as highlight the context-specific differences.

- Because this discussion is not happening independently of the global markets, issues of power, justice, neo-liberal policies must always be examined and incorporated into strategizing (i.e. support for “polluter pays” politics).
- Climate justice cannot be ignored: what populations are emitting? what populations are suffering? Constantly, the justice and equity issues of climate change must inform the strategy.
- Although the COPs are milestones and events to work toward, they cannot be the only guidelines in formulating strategies, as they are the “endgame”; work must always happen on the ground at the national level, and those lessons must inform ongoing, sustainable methodologies.
- Mainstreaming gender into climate change provides an opportunity to reclaim sustainable development: a roadmap must be drawn, incorporating all elements and all communities into a holistic approach.



IV. Conclusions

At the end of the two-day workshop, Aminata Toure (UNFPA) and Cate Owren and Irene Dankelman (WEDO) shared reflections, thanks, and commitments by each organization to embrace the momentum generated at the workshop and to produce resources and research. UNFPA, having just begun its work on climate change, is interested in engaging with WEDO and its networks on this issue. WEDO is prepared to take a leadership role on producing the resources necessary to advance the advocacy work and, based on the outcomes of the workshop, will work to develop technical tools which will enhance evidence-based advocacy.

The needs identified and main messages coming out of the workshop were various but repeatedly centered around one theme: a holistic approach. Climate change can be and should be embraced as an opportunity to re-think sustainable development standards and methodologies, across sectors and across national borders. It presents an opportunity, especially in adaptation efforts, to embrace a bottom-up approach, learning from the ways in which communities are coping with their changing environments, and allowing those lessons to inform national and global policy-making.

The emphasis on urgency and interconnectedness underscored the many discussion points throughout the workshop. Climate change is not a future phenomenon; it is happening now, and the time is now to implement solutions. A gap remains between policy-making and implementation; even when a country seems to have every policy in place, it may still suffer from a disconnect between what exists on paper, and what communities are living with on the ground. Additionally, policy-making tends to happen, as was illustrated by most of the country assessments, in independent Ministries and not across sectors or agencies. For example, a country’s Ministry of Environment rarely works with the Ministry of Women, or Ministries of Agriculture,

Forestry, Labor or Planning and Housing, to write or *implement* climate change (or disaster risk reduction/ preparedness/ management) policies. But climate change demands collaboration.

The importance of clear, concise, unified messages and language also became a critical demand of the workshop, as climate change continues to be an issue heavily inundated by jargon. Adding the gendered dimension cannot be an excuse to further marginalize or fragment the issue, and the focus must not be exclusively on women (or women's vulnerability). A *gendered* approach essentially means a *rights-based* approach, valuing human security, as well as biodiversity, over market-focused strategies. Women and men have different roles, responsibilities, divisions of labor, access to information and resources, and land rights, so women and men should equally and equitably share their perspectives in policy-formation.

Funding must be secured and disbursed to support research at the community-, country- and region-specific levels, and funding must be solidified for countries that have completed their NAPAs to be able to implement priority activities. Technical resources must be developed for policy-makers and advocates alike, and empirical data must be generated at all levels to inform smart, sustainable policy-making and advocacy.

For each country involved in WEDO's pilot project to advocate for gender mainstreaming into national climate change policy-making, it became clear throughout the workshop that the action plans will be very specific to partners' capacity, expertise and needs assessments of their countries. However, each national case study illustrated the same theme: the vulnerable regions of the world are living with climate change right now. It will take a collaborative effort by civil society networks engaging with NGOs, government agencies and UN agencies to effect positive change and influence the global arena. WEDO and its partners firmly believe that there are lessons to be learned at the national level which can and should inform global negotiations. Outcomes of advocacy in each country will include awareness-raising and education in target communities, mobilizing women's networks to take leadership on the issues of climate change, and comprehensive, gender-sensitive climate change policies at the local and national level. The workshop participants called on WEDO to serve as a hub for resources and a fulcrum and unifier for networks; WEDO will continue to prioritize collaborative partnerships in its pilot countries and will seek to expand the project into a new round of countries within a few years.

ANNEX I



Gender & Climate Change Workshop June 2-3, 2008

Agenda

Day One—Monday, 2 June:

10:00- 10:30 Welcome: Purpose of Meeting (Overview of Gender & Climate Change)
Zo Randriamaro and Irene Dankelman, WEDO

10:30- 11:00 Introductions: How each individual/organization works on gender & climate issues
Facilitated by Irene Dankelman, WEDO/University Nijmegen

11:00- 11:30 UNFPA presentation on strategies addressing gender and climate change
Aminata Toure, UNFPA

11:30- 12:00 WEDO presentation on national advocacy pilot project
Cate Owren, WEDO

12:00- 12:15 Break

12:15- 1:00 Presentation #1: Based on 1st country assessment (gender, climate change and the cross-cutting issues) (Ghana)
Rose Mensah-Kutin, Abantu for Development

1:00- 1:15 Q&A

1:15- 2:30 LUNCH & Break

2:30- 3:30 Presentation #2: Based on 2nd country assessment (Senegal) with Q & A
Yacine Diagne Gueye, ENDA

3:30- 4:30 Presentation #3: Based on 3rd country assessment (Nepal) with Q & A
Brigitte Leduc, ICIMOD

4:30- 4:45 Break

4:45- 5:45 Presentation #4: Based on 4th country assessment (Trinidad) with Q&A
Marlene Attzs, SEDU

5:45- 6:00 Summary comments by facilitator

Irene Dankelman

- 6:00- 8:00 Free time (dinner, rest, etc.!)
8:00 Film presentation: Four short films on gender & climate change
Becks Gowland, Oxfam GB

Day Two—Tuesday, 2 June:

- 9:00- 9:15 Welcome back
Ayesha Imam, WEDO
- 9:15- 9:45 The adaptation experience from Sudan: including gender in the NAPA
Sumaya Zakiideen, SECS/CLACC
- 9:45- 10:15 Financing for gender equality in climate change adaptation and mitigation
Rachel Nampinga, ECOWATCH Africa (Uganda)
- 10:45- 11:15 Break
- 11:15- 12:30 Small group work: Strategies for Senegal, Ghana, Nepal, Trinidad and “Local to Global”
- 12:30- 2:00 LUNCH & Break
- 2:00- 2:15 Reconvene and organize for report-back
- 2:15- 3:45 Report back from group work and discussion
Facilitated by Aminata Toure, UNFPA
- 3:45- 4:15 Break
- 4:15- 5:00 Reflections, last comments and questions, and looking forward
Irene Dankelman and Cate Owren, WEDO, and Aminata Toure, UNFPA
- 5:00 END of Meeting



**Gender & Climate Change Workshop
2 - 3 June 2008
Novotel Hotel, Dakar, Senegal**

Participants:

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Dr. Nana Tanko, *Open Society Institute West Africa (OSIWA)*
Michel Saraka Kouamé, *OSIWA*
Yacine Diagne Gueye, *ENDA (Senegal)*
Boubacar Fall, *ENDA*
Nogoye Thiam, *ENDA*
Djimingue Nanasta, *ENDA*
Madeleine Diouf Sarr, *COMNAC/ DEEC (Senegal)*
Aram Ngom Ndiaye, *COMNAC/ DEEC*
Khady Ndiaye Kebe, *COMNAC/ DEEC*
Aliou Ba, *COMNAC/ Eden Group*
Mariame Diouf Bathily, *COMNAC/ Agence Météorologique*
Rose Mensah-Kutin, *ABANTU (Ghana)*
Marlene Attzs, *UWI/ SEDU (Trinidad)*
Brigitte Leduc, *ICIMOD (Nepal)*
Babita Basnet, *Sancharika Samuha (Nepal)*
Rachel Nampinga, *ECOWATCH-Africa/ Gender-CC Network (Uganda)*
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Ayesha Imam, *WEDO Board (Senegal/ Nigeria)*
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Cate Owren, *WEDO*
Rachel Harris, *WEDO*